

**Caernarvon Interagency Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**February 2, 2005**  
**Lindy Boggs Conference Center**  
**University of New Orleans**

1. CIAC member roll call.

Garrett Broussard	LDNR, Chair, CIAC
Bruce Baird	USACE
David Walther	USFWS
Bren Haase	NMFS
Heather Warner-Finley	LDWF
Bruce Champion	LDHH
David Oge	LDEQ
Lonny Serpas	Plaquemines Parish Government
Charles Reppel	St. Bernard Parish Government
Jim Hasik	Recreational Fisheries
David Dawson	Landowner Representative

**Note:** At the request of the St. Bernard Parish President, Mr. Charles Reppel has permanently replaced Mr. Clay Cosse as their representative.

Loland Broussard attended as representative of NRCS.

Representatives from EPA, Oyster fisheries, and Shrimp fisheries were not present.

In addition to the 10 committee members, there were 27 other interested parties that attended the meeting.

2. **Motion: Approve minutes from previous meeting.**

**Result: All in favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Motion Passed**

3. Chuck Villarrubia, LDNR, presented the Caernarvon Annual Report; which was accepted by the Committee. The report may be found at the DNR web site.

**Motion: Accept the Annual Report as presented.**

**Result: All in Favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Motion Passed**

4. Dr. John Day was scheduled to give his report on the LSU Pulses Project; however, a conflict in his schedule prevented him from attending the meeting. Chuck Villarrubia did give a brief report of the Pulses Project in his annual report.

5. Report from Technical Work Group, Tom Bernard, LDNR. The TWG met January 12, 2005 to discuss the operational plan for 2004. (Para. 6)

6. The 2004 plan was used as a basis for the plan for 2005. NRCS had approached the committee to ask about raising the minimum flow from 1000 to 2000 cfs during the months of April through November. However; after some discussion it was decided that the minimum flow for that period remain unchanged from last year, with the argument that flows could and would be raised if salinities allowed, regardless of the minimum. At a request of Chuck Villarrubia, the location of the reference gage in footnote #1 of the

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operational plan was changed to “Reggio Canal near Wills Point”, and the reference elevation was changed to “2.4 ft”.

Chuck Villarrubia presented a request by Dr. Bryan Piazza of LSU, for target dates for another experimental pulsing in the 2005 spring discharge season. The proposed dates start on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and complete March 28<sup>th</sup> 2005. This was approved to be sent to the CIAC for consideration.

7. Jim Hasik questioned the necessity for the low flows during the Pulsing Project, and asked if we could make up the lost high flow days after the project is complete. After much discussion with Bruce Baird and Heather Finley, it was agreed that the Pulse Project be approved as requested with the understanding that flows between the two high flow periods would be increased to as much as 6500 cfs if study conditions dictate and approved by the LSU study group and the Structure Coordinator.

**Motion: Approve the Pulse Study Project as requested with the possibility of additional high flows as stated above.**

**Result: All in favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Motion Passed**

8. Mr. Dawson inquired as to the possibility that there be an independent pulse flow during late spring. Bruce Baird had some ideas he presented on possibly small or shorter pulses. A discussion followed with the conclusion that everyone wanted to see more flows going into the basin than in previous years. Chuck Villarrubia mentioned that his studies indicated that high flows helped the fisheries in more ways than it hurt them. It was mentioned that future discussions on Chuck Villarrubia’s shrimp report, when completed, could further the possibility of running pulses in the later spring months. Bruce Baird brought up the fact that the structure is only being used at a small percent of its design capacity and that flows should be increased yearly, if at all possible, to optimize its usage. As a result of these discussions, the committee proposed a motion to raise the maximum flow in all months to 6500 cfs with the understanding that we are still governed by the isohaline line and minimal increases will be experienced.

**Motion: Raise maximum flow in all months to 6500 cfs.**

**Result: All in favor: 10, Opposed: 0, Motion Passed**

9. Other Business:

Mr. Ken Salvastano, representing the Steinberg Co., asked for assistance in taking care of the water hyacinth problem that is taking over the basin. Loland Broussard, NRCS mentioned that they, along with DNR, are investigating the possibility of assisting the landowners with the problem. Bruce Baird will talk to the COE about assisting and Heather Finley will discuss this with LDWF.

Mr. Dan Arceneaux, St. Bernard, inquired as to the affect that the Caernarvon Structure has on contributing fresh water to the MRGO. Chuck Villarrubia mentioned that he expected little affect would be felt east of Bayou Terre aux Boeufs, thereby not having much, if any, affect on freshening the MRGO region.

10. Meeting was adjourned:

**CAERNARVON FRESHWATER DIVERSION OPERATIONAL PLAN  
2005**

Month	Flow Range (cfs) <sup>1</sup>
January 1 - 23	3000-6500 <sup>2</sup>
January 24 - February 2	3000-6500 <sup>2</sup>
Pulse Low Flow Feb. 03 - Feb. 13	500
Pulse High Flow Feb. 14 - Feb. 28	6500 <sup>5</sup>
Pulse Low Flow Mar. 01 - Mar. 13	500
Pulse High Flow Mar.14 - Mar. 28	6500 <sup>5</sup>
April	500-6500 <sup>4</sup>
May	500-6500 <sup>3</sup>
June	1000-6500 <sup>3</sup>
July	1000-6500 <sup>4</sup>
August	1000-6500 <sup>4</sup>
September	1000-6500 <sup>4</sup>
October	1000-6500 <sup>4</sup>
November	1000-6500 <sup>4</sup>
December	2500 <sup>2</sup>
During Duck Season Split	6500 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Notwithstanding these flow range targets, operational procedures relating to emergencies, closure of the structure or reduction of flow to reduce the threat of coastal flooding or high water levels reflected by monitoring and operational procedures pertaining to low Mississippi River stage or drought conditions shall all remain in effect. The structure will be closed or reduced if the water level measured by the official USGS gauge at Reggio Canal near Wills Point reads above 2.4 NAVD-88.

<sup>2</sup> Salinity at Bay Gardene will be monitored to stay above 3 ppt.

<sup>3</sup> For oyster production, the salinities at the Bay Gardene station will be monitored during these months. The structure will be operated at the lower discharge levels. If the Bay Gardene station moves to 9 ppt based on a two-week average, Caernarvon discharge will be increased, but will not exceed 6500 cfs, to decrease the average to 9 ppt. Water levels gauges will be added to certain sites and monitored.

<sup>4</sup> Seek to maintain annual average 5 ppt line, based on a yearly average, and monitor salinities as to promote enhancement of oyster production in the public seed grounds and to achieve other stated benefits of the project, up to 6500 cfs.

<sup>5</sup> During the period from the end of duck season through March 28 conduct two two-week 6500 cfs pulse flows with a two-week period of either low flow 500 cfs (experimental request) or existing flow and salinity targets for the month. With the approval of the LSU study group and the DNR Structure Coordinator, maximize the discharge in the period between the high flows (Feb. 28 to Mar. 13).